GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:947
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2005
SURVEY ON SUPPLY OF DRINKING WATER TO RURAL HABITATIONS
Barman Shri Hiten

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has ever made any survey in rural habitations of West Bengal to find out their access to safe drinking water;

(b) if so, the details and the findings thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware that in ground reality less than 50% of rural habitations got access to safe drinking water as against the Government`s claim of 99.58%; and

(d) if so, the reasons for the shortfall and the steps taken/to be taken by the Government to achieve the target?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT(SHRI A. NARENDRA)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. All the States/Union Territories, including West Bengal, were requested in 2003 to conduct a fresh habitation survey. The results of the survey furnished by States/UTs are under validation by Indian Institute of Public Administration.

(c) & (d) Drinking water supply is a State subject. State Governments plan, sanction and implement drinking water supply projects for providing drinking water facilities to all rural habitations. The Central Government supplements their efforts by providing financial support and technical assistance under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). As per the coverage status reported by the State Government, all rural habitations of West Bengal included in the Comprehensive Action Plan 1999 have been covered with schemes to supply stipulated norms of 40 litres per capita per day (lpcd). However, coverage status is a dynamic one. Fully Covered habitations slip back to Partially Covered or Not Covered status due to various factors, viz., sources going dry due to lowering of ground water table, sources becoming quality affected, systems outliving their lives, systems working below rated capacity due to poor operation and maintenance, increase in population etc. Under Bharat Nirman, it is envisaged to cover all the uncovered as well as slipped back habitations in a period of four years starting from 2005-06 to 2008-09.